

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 /074 W

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R 201515Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8403

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

CONFIDENTIAL QUITO 9295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT EC CO

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO THE COLOMBIAN EXPULSION OF ECUADOREAN

"CIVIC FRONT"

1. LOCAL REACTION TO THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S ACTION IN
EXPELLING THE 30-ODD MEMBERS OF THE ECUADOREAN OPPOSITION TO
PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA, THE SO-CALLED "CIVIC FRONT", HAS
BEEN AS EXPECTED. THE GOE WELCOMED THE ACTION, PRESIDENT
RODRIGUEZ LARA SAYING ON DECEMBER 19 IN A SPEECH IN
GUAYAQUIL THAT: "THE ILLUSTRIOUS AND WORTHY COLOMBIAN
DEMOCRACY....PUT AN END TO THE AUDACITY OF THE LAWYERS AND
EX-DIPLOMATS, (THUS) COMPLYING WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENTS....WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF
COLOMBIA HAD NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE...."

2. PRESS OPINION HAS BEEN LARGEY NEGATIVE.

"EL TIEMPO'S" PICAPIEDRA COLUMNIST TOOK EXCEPTION TO
ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR DONOSO'S EXPLANATIONS IN
BOGOTA THAT THE EXILED POLITICIANS HAD CONSPIRED AGAINST
"THEIR COUNTRY", WARNED HIM THAT HE SHOULD NOT CONFUSE
GOVERNMENT WITH COUNTRY, AND SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD
SHORTLY FIND HIMSELF WITHOUT A JOB WHEN THE RODRIGUEZ
LARA GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED. FORMER FONMIN JULIO PRADO
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STRONGLY ATTACKED THE COLOMBIAN ACTION IN AN ARTICE OF

DECEMBER 19, SAID IT HAD BEEN TAKEN AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE RODRIGUEZ LARA GOVERNMENT, AND ACCUSED PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSON OF HAVING FORGOTTEN THE PAST "WHICH GAVE LUSTER TO HIS NAME AS A TIRELESS FIGHTER FOR THE LIBERTIES OF HIS PEOPLE."

3. THE COLOMBIAN AMBASSADOR IN QUITO, DR. GILBERTO ECHEVERRIA MEJIA, HAS BEEN HAVING A DIFFICULT TIME OF IT PERSONALLY. HE HAS BEEN RECEIVING ABUSIVE AND THREATENING CALLS AND LETTERS. HE TOLD ME DECEMBER 19 THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSON HAD TELEPHONED HIM SUGGESTING THAT HE RETURN TO BOGOTA FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT HE HAD DECLINED TO DO SO. THE AMBASSADOR ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE MIGHT DECIDE TO SEND HIS WIFE AND FAMILY BACK IF THE ABUSE CONTINUES.

BREWSTER

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